

I Claim:

- 1 1. A method for evaluating operation of a compression cooling system; the method
2 comprising the steps of:
3 (a) in no particular order:
4 (1) measuring a first temperature of said refrigerant in a saturated state;
5 and
6 (2) measuring a second temperature of said refrigerant in a liquid state;
7 and
8 (b) calculating a difference between said first temperature and said second
9 temperature to determine the extant amount of subcooling to which said
10 refrigerant is subjected.
- 1 2. A method for evaluating operation of a compression cooling system as recited in
2 Claim 1 wherein the method comprises the further step of:
3 (c) comparing said extant amount of subcooling with a predetermined acceptable
4 amount of subcooling.
- 1 3. A method for evaluating operation of a compression cooling system as recited in
2 Claim 2 wherein the method comprises the further step of:
3 (d) changing amount of refrigerant in said cooling system when said extant
4 amount of subcooling differs from said predetermined acceptable amount of
5 subcooling by greater than a predetermined amount.
- 1 4. A method for evaluating operation of a compression cooling system as recited in
2 Claim 1 wherein the method comprises the further step of:
3 (c) adding refrigerant to said cooling system when said extant amount of
4 subcooling is less than a predetermined acceptable amount of subcooling.
- 1 5. A method for evaluating operation of a compression cooling system as recited in
2 Claim 3 wherein the method comprises the further step of:

3 (e) repeating steps (a) through (d) until said extant amount of subcooling differs
4 from said predetermined acceptable amount of subcooling by less than said
5 predetermined amount.

1 6. A method for evaluating operation of a compression cooling system as recited in
2 Claim 4 wherein the method comprises the further step of:

3 (d) repeating steps (a) through (c) until said extant amount of subcooling differs
4 from said predetermined acceptable amount of subcooling by less than a
5 predetermined amount.

1 7. A method for evaluating refrigerant charge in a compression cooling system; said
2 system including a first system portion in which said refrigerant is substantially
3 always in a saturated state and a second system portion in which said refrigerant is
4 substantially always in a liquid state; the method comprising the steps of:

5 (a) in no particular order:

6 (1) measuring a first temperature of said refrigerant in said first system
7 portion; and

8 (2) measuring a second temperature of said refrigerant in said second
9 system portion;

10 (b) calculating a difference between said first temperature and said second
11 temperature to determine the extant amount of subcooling effected by said system.

1 8. A method for evaluating refrigerant charge in a compression cooling system as recited
2 in Claim 7 wherein the method comprises the further step of:

3 (c) comparing said extant amount of subcooling with a predetermined acceptable
4 amount of subcooling.

1 9. A method for evaluating refrigerant charge in a compression cooling system as recited
2 in Claim 8 wherein the method comprises the further step of:

(d) changing amount of refrigerant in said cooling system when said extant amount of subcooling differs from said predetermined acceptable amount of subcooling by greater than a predetermined amount.

10. A method for evaluating refrigerant charge in a compression cooling system as recited in Claim 7 wherein the method comprises the further step of:

(c) adding refrigerant to said system when said extant amount of subcooling differs from said predetermined acceptable amount of subcooling by less than a predetermined amount.

11. A method for evaluating refrigerant charge in a compression cooling system as recited in Claim 9 wherein the method comprises the further step of:

(e) repeating steps (a) through (d) until said extant amount of subcooling differs from said predetermined acceptable amount of subcooling by less than said predetermined amount.

12. A method for evaluating refrigerant charge in a compression cooling system as recited in Claim 10 wherein the method comprises the further step of:

(d) repeating steps (a) through (c) until said extant amount of subcooling differs from said predetermined acceptable amount of subcooling by less than a predetermined amount.

13. A compression cooling system comprising:

- (a) a compressor, an evaporator and a condenser fluidly coupled by at least one fluid carrying line containing a refrigerant;
- (b) a first temperature measuring device connected with said system for measuring a first temperature of said refrigerant in a saturated state; and
- (c) a second temperature measuring device connected with said system for measuring a second temperature of said refrigerant in a liquid state.

1 14. A compression cooling system as recited in Claim 13 wherein the system further
2 comprises:

3 (d) a calculating device coupled with said first temperature measuring device and
4 said second temperature measuring device; said calculating device calculating a
5 difference between said first temperature and said second temperature to
6 determine an extant amount of subcooling effected by said system.

1 15. A compression cooling system as recited in Claim 14 wherein the system further
2 comprises:

3 (e) fluid access fittings in said fluid carrying line for effecting fluid
4 communication with the system from without the system; said fluid access fittings
5 being configured to accommodate a user coupling a refrigerant source with said
6 fittings for changing charge of said refrigerant within said system when said
7 extant amount of subcooling differs from a predetermined acceptable amount of
8 subcooling by greater than a predetermined amount.

1 16. A compression cooling system as recited in Claim 15 wherein said predetermined
2 acceptable amount of subcooling is provided to said user by a tool; said tool being
3 external of said system.

1 17. A compression cooling system as recited in Claim 15 wherein said predetermined
2 acceptable amount of subcooling is provided to said user by said calculating device.

1 18. A compression cooling system as recited in Claim 13 wherein the system further
2 comprises:

3 (e) fluid access fittings in said at least one fluid carrying line for effecting fluid
4 communication with the system from without the system; said fluid access fittings
5 being configured to accommodate a user coupling a refrigerant source with said
6 fittings for changing charge of said refrigerant within said system when said

- 7 extant amount of subcooling differs from a predetermined acceptable amount of
- 8 subcooling by greater than a predetermined amount.